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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/060,300	02/01/2002	Takao Murakami	06753.0495	7085

7590 03/17/2003

Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow,
Garrett & Dunner, L.L.P.
1300 I Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3315

EXAMINER

GUSHI, ROSS N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/060,300

Applicant(s)

MURAKAMI ET AL.

Examiner

Ross N. Gushi

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 6-9 and 15 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 10, 11, 13, 14 and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of claims 1-16 in Paper No. 7 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the search regarding the group 2 method would include information relevant to the group 1 terminal. This is not found persuasive because the method and terminal are classified in different classes and the search for the terminal does not require a search for the method of producing the terminal and the a search regarding the method of producing the terminal does not require a search in the classes containing the actual terminal. Therefore examining both the method and apparatus claims would necessarily involve searches not required for examining one or the other of the terminal or the method and therefore would constitute an undue burden.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 10, 11, 13, 14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fukuda et al. ("Fukuda"). Per claims 1, 10, 14, and 16, Fukuda discloses a male terminal fitting 1 comprising a plate-shaped contact protrusion 20 formed at one side of said male terminal fitting for mating with a female terminal fitting; and a conductor clamping portion located at the other side of said male terminal for

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clamping a conductor of an electric wire; wherein said plate-shaped contact protrusion includes a base plate component (see attachment) longitudinally extending from said conductor clamping portion in an elongated plate shape, an overlapping fold plate component laterally extending from one side of said base plate component and folded to overlap with said base plate component, and a flatness securing plate component overlapping with said base plate component and said overlapping fold plate component to ensure flatness conditions of said base plate component and said overlapping fold plate component.

Per claim 2, said overlapping fold plate component includes a side plate element (see attachment) upwardly extending from one side of said base plate component in a plane substantially perpendicular to said base plate component, and a top plate element extending from said side plate element in a plane substantially parallel to said base plate component; and wherein said flatness securing plate component overlaps said base plate component and said top plate element.

Per claims 3, 11 wherein: said plate-shaped contact protrusion has a distal end formed with a guide portion composed of substantially rectangular tongues (see figure 5) which are bent toward one another.

Per claim 4, said flatness securing plate component, said base plate component and said overlapping fold plate component are formed into a substantially roll shape in cross section.

Per claims 5, 13 said plate-shaped contact protrusion has a distal formed with a tapered guide portion.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claim 1 is provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of copending Application No. 10/196164. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because they claim essentially the same subject matter, merely using different terms to identify the same structural elements.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6-9, and 15 are allowable. The prior art does not suggest the terminal fitting as claimed, including the combination of all the claimed elements, the combination including a second overlapping fold plate component which extends from said first overlapping fold plate component at a position close to the other end of said base plate

component and which is folded back in another direction. Fukuda reads on all of the limitation except that the second overlapping fold plate component does not extend at a position close to the other end of the base plate.

Claims 12 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claim 12, the prior art does not suggest the terminal fitting as claimed, including the combination of all the claimed elements, the combination including that the base plate component and the first and second overlapping fold plate components are formed into a substantially S-shape shape in cross section.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ross Gushi whose telephone number is (703) 306-4508. If attempts to reach the examiner by phone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley, can be reached at (703) 308-2319. The phone number for the Group's facsimile is (703) 308-7766

rng

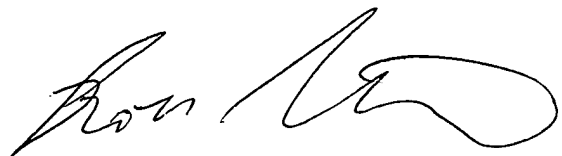


FIG. 6

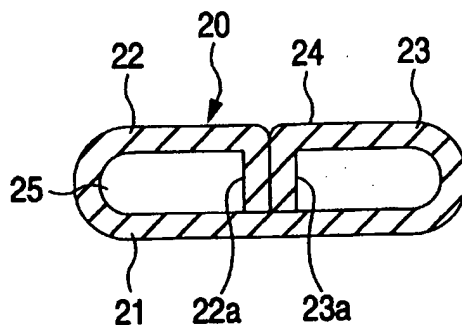
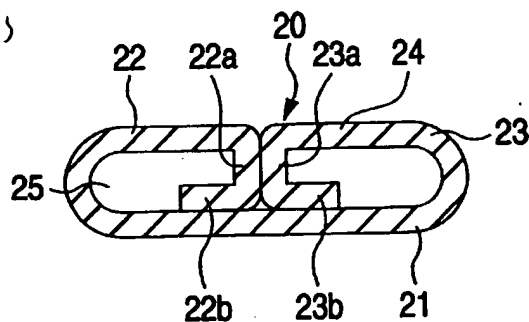


FIG. 7



*Regarding
1-5, 10
Claims*

FIG. 8

